

## **ADULT EDUCATION NEW OPPORTUNITY GRANT UPDATE**

**Agenda Item H-1  
March 19, 2001**

---

The Adult Education Action Plan for fiscal year 2000-01, approved by the council in November 2000, set aside \$1.5 million for New Opportunity Grants and authorized council staff to select the recipients. Sixty-two applications seeking \$12 million were received by the deadline of January 22, 2001. The grants fund model adult education programs. The criteria included

- Potential to be expanded quickly and efficiently.
- Instructional materials and service delivery strategies based on best practices and research.
- Collaboration with local, state, or private agencies.
- Rationale for need and cost per participant.
- A plan for the program evaluation, focusing on the number of learners meeting their goals and on the ability to replicate a program elsewhere in Kentucky.

### **Review Process**

A two-tiered system for evaluating the proposals involved staff of the council and the Department of Adult Education and Literacy, and external reviewers familiar with adult education. Based on the criteria listed above, six categories were developed for assessing proposals. These categories were

- Project priorities. Successful proposals were to show promise in moving adult learners on to postsecondary education; involve distance learning aspects for scalability; develop case management and academic advising components; collaborate with local, state, or private agencies; and involve applied research in adult education.
- Identification of need. Successful proposals specified target populations with evidence of how the particular population was chosen and how the program would benefit these individuals, the local community, and the state.
- Program activities. Successful proposals specified how their service delivery effectively addressed their target populations by citing best practices and research. Evidence of continuing the local partnerships beyond the grant period was fundamental, too.
- Assessment and evaluation. Successful proposals provided clear definitions of project performance: number of projected participants, number of participants meeting their goals, and ability to replicate the program elsewhere. Gauging progress during and afterward is required of all recipients.
- Staff qualifications. Successful proposals provided evidence that the involved staff have the qualifications, skills, experience, and adequate size to begin an activity quickly and effectively.

- Budget. Successful proposals provided evidence of being cost effective over the long term with a strategy for continuing the activity after the grant period.

The three teams met as a group to discuss the top-scored programs from each team and recommend finalists to the review committee.

### **Final Selection**

Four people representing the council and the department reviewed the initial recommendations and chose nine proposals totaling \$1,060,723. The grants are nonrecurring and cover one to two years. Of the remaining \$439,277 in New Opportunity Grant funds, up to \$200,000 will be allocated for project evaluations by a university or team of universities.

A substantial portion of the remaining \$239,277 will pay for statewide on-line adult education instruction offered through the Kentucky Virtual University. Four grant recipients – Madisonville Community College, Whitley County Board of Education, Todd County Board of Education, and Hopkinsville Community College – will rely heavily on this interactive software, which will be available at all other adult education sites in Kentucky.

Of the nine New Opportunity Grant recipients, three are community and technical colleges, four are boards of education, one is a multi-county cooperative, and another is a statewide organization. The diversity should help to clarify future adult education strategies.

**Attachment A**  
**New Opportunity Grant Recipients for 2001**

**Madisonville Community College, \$204,314**

*Projected number of new participants: 600*

*Implementation period: 24 months*

The Training Through Interactive Educational Resources project will provide job and academic counselors to recruit undereducated participants, identify career and educational goals for each participant, and provide assistance with postsecondary educational placement. This project builds upon the Adult Centers for Educational Excellence (ACE2), a successful instructional technology and workforce development program. Project success will be defined by 50 percent of participants achieving one of four individual goals (enroll in postsecondary education or training; obtain employment; upgrade employment; or show significant improvement on appropriate assessment).

**Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative, \$98,860**

*Projected number of new participants: 200*

*Implementation period: 52 weeks*

The Odyssey project will serve "at risk" learners from ages 16 to 35, as defined by the Appalachian Educational Laboratory, with intensive mentoring activities related to placement in postsecondary education or vocational training, and career goal attainment. In addition to education functional level completions, project success will be defined by 50 percent of eligible participants continuing on to postsecondary education or training, 30 percent obtaining unsubsidized employment, and 90 percent retaining or advancing in their present employment.

**Clinton County Board of Education, \$98,635**

*Projected number of new participants: 100*

*Implementation period: 48 weeks*

ADTRAN (Adult Transition) will target adults who recently dropped out of adult education and those adults who lack basic skills to enter into higher education or employment. A case management approach will be used to provide intensive educational and support services to aid participants' progress into postsecondary education or the world of work. Project success will be defined by nine performance goals that include measurable outcomes, ranging from GED obtainment (75 percent of participants) to successful transition into postsecondary education or employment (75 percent of participants).

**Estill County Board of Education, \$69,307**

*Projected number of new participants: 156*

*Implementation period: 24 months*

This project will target recent high school dropouts and eligible residents of public housing. In addition to adult basic skill instruction, intensive job coaching and counseling will be included. Online computer instruction will be provided using PreGED 2001 and Learning 100 On-Line. Qualified participants will be strongly encouraged to transfer to Central Kentucky Technical College. Project success will be defined by meeting 75 percent of established performance goals and 50 percent of adult learners enrolling in at least one postsecondary education class.

**Northern Kentucky Community and Technical Colleges, \$95,960**

*Projected number of new participants: 800*

*Implementation period: 24 months*

The project will develop and implement a best practice model to address barriers faced by lower income students wanting to enroll in postsecondary education. A regional transitional advisor will develop and implement the project. Project success will be defined by 10 goals, ranging from number served to number of postsecondary education placements.

**Whitley County Board of Education, \$154,750**

*Projected number of new participants: 1,000*

*Implementation period: 24 months*

The New Opportunity project will collaborate with a number of entities throughout Whitley County to make internet-based basic skill instruction available. "Skills Tutor," the internet-based version of PLATO – provided by KYVU – will be the online curriculum. Sites include Lion Apparel, Tri-County Assembly, Williamsburg Housing Authority, Corbin Adult Education Center, and Williamsburg Adult Education Center. The number of participants achieving 75 percent of their performance goals on 18 criteria will define project success.

**Todd County Board of Education, \$32,329**

*Projected number of new participants: 80*

*Implementation period: 24 months*

This program will enhance current adult education services by providing adult learners with access to the county school system's state-of-the-art computer laboratory, creating a virtual one-room schoolhouse for ESL, GED, and Virtual University students. Project success will be defined by a 25 percent increased enrollment, ESL student progress, GED obtained by 60 percent of enrollment, increased number of educational level completions, and increased number of postsecondary education placements.

**Hopkinsville Community College, \$106,568**

*Projected number of new participants: 100*

*Implementation period: 24 months*

This project will provide online instruction, case management, and follow-up support services for adult education students. The case manager will work with the adult education programs to assist expected GED graduates with transition into postsecondary education. Online computer based instruction will be provided for low-level students wanting to enroll in the community college. Project success will be defined by the number enrolled in HCC and the adult education program, as well as the number placed in postsecondary education or training.

**Kentucky National Guard, \$200,000**

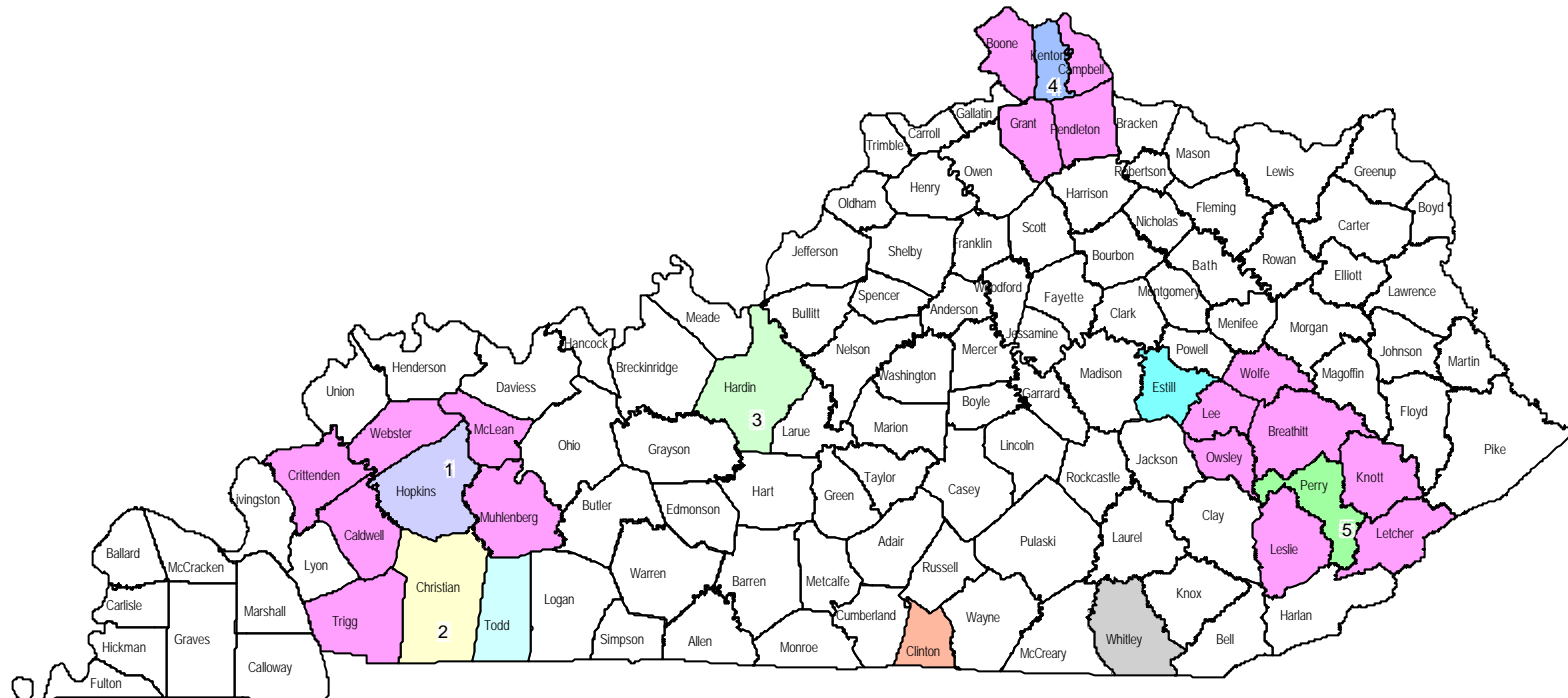
*Projected number of new participants: 400*

*Implementation period: 24 months*

This project will expand an existing program – Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy (National Guard) – by adding two placement coordinators. These coordinators will work intensively with participants (high school dropouts age 16 to 18 at enrollment) to develop a life plan, contact employers to obtain employment opportunities information, and assist in the application process for postsecondary education or the Armed Services. In addition, project coordinators will develop partnerships with workforce development boards, employers, technical trade unions, KCTCS, colleges and universities, community leaders, and others to support the various placement activities. The number of participants who have been placed in jobs, education, or military service and continue that placement for a minimum of one year will define project success.

# ATTACHMENT B

## FY 2001 NEW OPPORTUNITY APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Includes services in the following counties: Hopkins, Muhlenberg, McLean, Webster, Crittenden, and Caldwell
2. Includes services in the following counties: Christian, Todd, Trigg, and Caldwell
3. The Kentucky Youth Challenge Program will serve youth on a statewide basis
4. Includes services in the following counties: Kenton, Boone, Campbell, Grant, and Pendleton
5. Includes services in the following counties: Perry, Breathitt, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, and Wolfe

2-26-01

**Attachment C**  
**Access to Statewide Electronic Curricula**  
**through Kentucky Virtual University**

